



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

**May 29, 2024
5:00 PM
MINUTES**

Attendees: Commissioner Pointer, Commissioner Reid
Staff Support: **Debbie Russell**, Director, Business Administration and Planning;
Marty Stump, Deputy Director, Business Administration and Planning;
Kristi Evans, Capital Program Manager, Community and Neighborhood Parks;
Fred Ramey, Asset and Facilities Services Manager, Zoological & Environmental Education;
Alisa O'Hanlon Regala, Strategic Planning Manager, Business Administration and Planning
Jasinda Waldron, Administrative Services Coordinator, Business Administration and Planning

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from the May 8, 2024, minutes were approved as written.

Discussion Item

N/A

Action Items

Accepting and Appropriating Funds from the Zoo Society to support design and construction of the Kid Zone Improvements Project at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

- A resolution authorizing the receipt of donated funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the Zoo Society, focusing on the lemur and meerkat areas. This will be used for a preplanning and predesign efforts for Kid Zone improvements, including establishing the scope of work and final budget.
- Fred brought attention to a scrivener's error in the title of the resolution which will be updated from \$250,000.00 to \$50,000.00. He is working on the scope of work and, once the money is appropriated, will start the process for picking the consultant.
- The projected start of the project will be late summer.
- Commissioner Reid inquired about the animals and where they will be relocated to. Fred informed the board that it is too early to determine if they will need to be moved or not.
- Commissioner Reid inquired about the length of the project time, to which Fred stated that it is yet to be determined.
- Commissioner Ried stated that the area is highly visited and wants to know what impacts this project will have. Fred responded that the money will focus on the animal areas and exhibits. Fred is working with staff on the pre-design to determine final usage.
- Commissioner Aaron and Commissioner Reid agreed to move this forward to the Board.

2024 Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Applications Authorizing Resolution-Peck Community Sports Park Multi-Use Field, Peck Community Sports Park Lighting and Swan Creek Park Probst Property Acquisition.

- Currently in the early and intermediate phases of this application. Peck master plan is completed - including school baseball field and multi-use field. Kristi stated that once the school districts field is built by end of 2024, the school district will be providing electrical service, panel and electrical conduit for ballfield lighting, MPT would be providing the lighting for the baseball field only. YAF grant needs matching funds and the team is asking for \$600k with matching funds of \$600k. If the teams receives the grant, contracts will be approved in spring of 2025.
- Commissioner Reid asked why the grant will not be till 2025, to which Kristi explained that the lighting will not be installed until a later date. Marty added that the lighting provides for extended play beyond the TPS hours of operation and use. This will extend the amount of hours of play per year.
- Only the baseball field will use this grant as it will be the only field ready. When the school district builds the field, they will ensure the field is electrical ready. YAF will only go up to a certain dollar amount, which is a smaller amount.
- The field is programable 7 days a week. The team has a joint programming group between the school district and MPT. We do not staff this site other than the normal M&O. In the future, the team will likely have staff on site for youth programs.
- Kristi will be managing this project through construction.
- Commissioner Pointer asked about the possibility of thieves stealing electrical and what we will need to prevent this. Kristi responded that they are trying to prevent this with improved technology and hiding equipment.
- Metro parks will eventually be building the remainder of the park i.e. the flex field which is the second part of the grant Community Outdoor Athletic Facility (COAF) grant first year that is being offered with a “no match requirement”, but the team will be matching it. The highest grant amount to request is \$1.2 million which is the amount of our request.
- Synthetic turf field will be the same as the school district standard and will provide for year-round usage. It will have drainage, fencing, landscaping, and no lighting in the first phase.
- Application due date changed from June 20, 2024 to June 27, 2024. Grant contract approval would be between January – March 2025.
- Marty responded that this is a brand new category and opportunity with this grant with RCO. Marty believes that this is a solid project and application, and if we are not successful in the first round, they will hold on to this application and re-review it at a later date.
- RCO Grant for Land Acquisition at Swan Creek that the team closed on February 29, 2024. Alyssa responds that this is already in our possession and was awarded a grant from Pierce County Conservation Futures for the amount of \$850,000.00 which helped with the acquisition.
- We applied for a waiver of retroactivity to WWRP which allows the team to put in an application. We are able to put in a grant after the purchase of the property for 50% of total cost, which would be \$1.4 million. This will help with the acquisition will act as a reimbursement for part of this purchase. The team would not have an agreement until June of 2025 if they are awarded this grant.
- Marty added Urban Wildlife is a protected 8 acers of forest land above a salmon active creek. We have a waiver of retroactivity so the team could replay for funds.
- Commissioner Reid confirmed if this grant is part of the process of reviewing the funding sources to purchase property, to which Marty confirmed yes if this grant is awarded this is part of the funding plan. Commissioner Reid additionally confirmed if this is part of the process of buying the property and suggested we make that known at the board meeting.

- Kristi confirmed that every resolution has specific RCO language. Both Commissioner and Reid approved this moving forward.

Additional Items

- Discussion regarding the Lease Agreement with the Aisa Pacific Curtal Center that took place last meeting and was mentioned in the May 8th Meeting Minutes.

Meeting Adjourned